

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PFOR, YO, BL

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA COMMEMORATION

REF: LA PAZ 6571

1. WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMEMORATION OF NIKOLA TESLA BY MEANS OF VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY, AND THE YUGOSLAVS DONATED A STATUE OF TESLA WHICH WAS DEDICATED LAST MONTH IN NIAGARA FALLS BY FEA ADMINISTRATOR FRANK ZARB. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED SOMEWHAT ABOUT JOINT COMMEMORATION WITH THE YUGOSLAVS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. (THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE SUBJECT HAS COME UP.)

2. WE WONDER WHAT IS THE YUGOSLAV MOTIVATION (IN TERMS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA) FOR SEEKING U.S. COOPERATION AND CO-SPONSORSHIP OF PROGRAMS HONORING TESLA. MORE IM-

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PORTANTLY, HOW WOULD BOLIVIANS INTERPRET SUCH A U.S.-

YUGOSLAV COOPERATION? WOULD OUR PARTICIPATION BE BENEFICIAL TO OUR INTERESTS IN BOLIVIA, WOULD IT MERELY ENHANCE YUGOSLAV PRESTIGE IN BOLIVIA (WHICH PERHAPS NEEDS ENHANCEMENT), OR WOULD THIS BE REGARDED RATHER AS A NON-POLITICAL MANIFESTATION?

3. SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING WHETHER WE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THE YUGOSLAVS.

4. WE APPRECIATE THE URGENCY FELT IN LA PAZ ABOUT THIS. IF YOU FEEL ENVIRONMENT THERE IS FAVORABLE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF U.S. INTERESTS, WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO APPROVE A JOINT TESLA COMMEMORATION WITH THE YUGOSLAVS WHEN WE HAVE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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